

Hello! and welcome to our September Newsletter.

Here you'll find all of our updates from the recent weeks, how you can help fight homelessness and how we have been helping our community. At ESGVCH we work hard to achieve our goals and strive to help others in helping themselves out of homelessness.

We believe in giving a hand up and not only, a hand out

Books for all

Back in May, this year, we were approached by the local Girl Scout troop. They were looking to fulfill their goal in earning a badge in charitable work by making our guests a portable library.

One sunny day they gave us a presentation. The aim was for each Girl Scout to design the decoration for this small fridge come library, adorned with inspirational quotes and art, with the goal of intriguing our guests to 'take one and leave one'.

And then, we had to pick the best one! Our hearts couldn't take it, so we decided that each Girl Scout should paint a side and all be a part of their great success.

So far our guests have indulged in romance novels and war stories.

Thank you, from the EAC and our guests, Troop 1714!



If you'd like to donate some books, or your time, come along to the Emergency Assistance Center, located in Hacienda Heights.

EAC July Achievements

At our Emergency Assistance Center we pride ourselves in the successes of our guests and the center.

Emergency Assistance Center achieved

- 654 Guest visits
- 15 Families helped
- 618 Hot meals given
- 600 Sack lunches handed out
- 49 nights in a motel given to families with young children
- 288 Showers taken
- 438 Hygiene Kits given

Our new website is now LIVE

Head on over to www.esgvch.org to see what we've been doing these past few months. If you know anyone who you feel can benefit from the services we provide, please feel free to share our website.

Subscribe to our monthly newsletters and updates on all of the services that we provide. You can Donate by clicking right [here](#) and if you'd like to get involved take a look at our [Volunteer page](#).

Keep your eyes peeled for news on upcoming events and the Winter Shelter Program.



Valuable bus journeys for our guests

On July 1st we said goodbye to our usual bus tokens and welcomed Tap cards through Metro, we are able to apply Life program subsidy which allows 20 bus rides a month to those who qualify.



Last year at a meeting with the Metro Board of Directors, District Supervisor, Janice Hahn stated;

“It is next to impossible to put your life back together if you don’t have basic access to transportation,” said Supervisor Hahn.
“For a homeless person without a car or money for the bus, getting to a doctor’s appointment or a job interview can be an insurmountable hurdle.”

The LIFE program is a newly improved program which allows students, low-income riders, and senior citizens to access discounted ride fares. Her motion, which passed as amended by a unanimous vote, directs Metro to enact an aggressive outreach and public engagement campaign to register more people with the LIFE program.

We supply our guests with a registered tap card, enroll them, then they must go to any of the supported vendors to load their fares for the month. This has given our guests a sense of independence and it is an enormous help to have up to 20 fares per month, giving them transportation to get to all their appointments and services.

A Day in the Life of a Homeless Service

Eddie* visits us 3-4 times a week.

He's in his mid thirties and has lived on the streets for the past two years.

He knows what got him there but now he is building himself back up.

He's quick to help others as they turn up.

If they have never come to the center, he guides them through the paperwork.

We often see him helping others that may have difficulty filling the forms in,

other times he'll be filling it out for them, all the while chatting to them, faces full of smiles.

There has never been a moment when he is not polite and thankful for our services.

After a shower, he comes out feeling refreshed, hair combed to the side and wishing us a great day.

One day I asked him what he does over the weekend when we're not open.

'I like to go to the library. I really enjoy reading and I'm trying to get back into it to keep me busy and keep my mind going'

'That's, awesome!' I exclaimed, 'What sort of books do you like?'

'Oh, I really like Mystery and.. I like comics, the pictures are always pretty cool.

Romance novels are actually my favorite.'

'Well maybe I can find you something here, we've had a few books donated and I'd love you to take one with you.'

I guess I was a little surprised but kept the memento going, he seemed to finally open up.

'Thank you. Yeah, I really love how everyone is so positive, they aren't spiteful towards each other.

There's always one person who loves the other one so much, they'd do anything for them.

I like to escape into these books and enjoy all the nice parts. It makes my heart feel warm, you know?'

For the rest of the day I kept thinking back on this glimpse of positivity in situations that may not be so positive.

Maybe we could all take a leaf out of Eddie's* book.



